

SENATE JUDICIARY
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 1/12/09
BILL NO. 96-73

January 12, 2009

RE: SB 96 - Revise mental illness evaluations in criminal justice system

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

Attached is a proposed amendment to SB 96.

The Montana Psychological Association asks that you include this amendment because psychologists have the necessary training to work with sexual offenders without being a member of an association. They receive this training as part of their doctoral studies and their credentials are reviewed at the time of licensure. We think it is appropriate that the statute which licenses psychologists be referenced for those professionals who can do these evaluations.

Recently, the Board of Psychologists reviewed the training of an individual psychologist and found the training to have comparable credential as a member of the Montana sex offender treatment association.

We are not asking for the Montana sex offender treatment association to be stricken from the statute, just that licensed psychologists be included.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Marti Wangen, CAE
Executive Director
Montana Psychological Association
Phone: 406.443.1160
Cell: 406.439.2080

Draft Amendments
Drafted by Marti L. Wangen
Montana Psychological Association
January 9, 2009

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill No. 96
Introduced by L. Jent
By Request of the Department of Corrections

1. Page 2, Line 13
 - a. Following: "association"
 - b. Insert: "or a psychologist licensed under Title 37, chapter 17;"

- END -